

COMPREHENDING

STIRNER

Dear Editors,

"The moral man," wrote Stirner, "can never comprehend the egoist", and it seems that both John P. Clark and your reviewer John Brent are moral men. Both have a concept of an egoist as a cold, competitive, self-interested person, i.e. the moral man's concept of an egoist. People who actually read Stirner understand that his "egoist" is quite different.

Clark dogmatically states that "Stirner's thought... advocates a ruthless will to power, power over things, persons, and, above all, oneself" (pp. 25-26 in his book*). But Stirner himself describes "a Nero" as a possessed man, and writes that "worldly goods" must be "put away as no longer valuable" (*The Ego and His Own*, pp. 54, 347).

Then we find John Brent wondering "what is to prevent a group of successful competitive egoists banding together to ensure that they remain at the top". But what are they competing for if they have put worldly goods away 'as no longer valuable'? To Stirner the feeling "I must be on top" is as much a denial of "egoism" as the feeling "I must serve others". Stirner's "egoist" has no such feelings at all, and sings 'Ich hab' Mein' Sach' auf Nichts gestellt' — "I have set my affair on nothing." (*The Ego and His Own*) first and last pages.

The fact is that to understand Stirner you have to sit down, put aside all your preconceptions, and actually read his book as a whole. It is the extraordinary outburst—passionate, confused, inspired—of an amateur philosopher fighting his way single-handed out of the mental prison of social morality and religion, and into the freedom of psychological integration. Pathetic it may be in parts, and any competent professional philosopher can heartlessly pull it to pieces, but it contains enough of what may be called genuine religious insight to make it immortal.

Yours sincerely,

Bristol. Francis Ellingham

THE MURRAYS

Dear Friends,

'Tis not often I write to you... However, I read an article or letter in our paper (vol. 38 no. 1) and feel I must comment thus:-

Comrade B. J. Clifton (at least I suppose he is one of the brethren) stimulates me to pass on a few words. I shall try not to be too passionate. He mentions reader participation and will do his bit to oblige (how noble).

I object to his comparison of the Murrays with Bonnie and Clyde. Unfortunately I am more familiar with the latter mentioned than the former. How



does B. J. Clifton know what circumstances surround the killing of this policeman? I am not in favour of using violence for gain but I can sympathize with anyone that has had the law hot on his or her arse (I know the feeling only too well). Who will ever know the truth of what actually happened over there in that unhappy country?

So fuck the 19th century and support the Murrays in this one.

Best wishes,
Mick Cropper.

INTO THE ACTION

Terry Philips was unfair to FREEDOM in his letter (21 January) and I do agree with P. Murtagh (5 February) about a lot of "agitational" writing. It's often cretinous.

But Terry raises a crucial point. Is FREEDOM out of touch with the active movement or is the active movement out of touch with itself?

Probably the latter. Take, for instance, the apparently torpid state of the CBA at this moment.

It is evident that anarchists in general have not yet succeeded in getting down to any sort of consistent, continuous "agitational" work. My feeling is that one of the best and most concrete approaches to the problem would be the formation of a number of groups, preferably linked in a federation for easier communication (hopefully!) who would concentrate on collecting and distributing information on one particular area - health, education, Ireland, Spain (there is already the Libertarian Spain Committee), prisons, law, transport, work, energy or what-

PUBLICATIONS

WHAT IS MAKHAEVISM? by Paul Avrich. Makhajski was a Polish revolutionary who, using a critique based on the division of mental and manual labour, analysed Marxism as the false consciousness of a rising bureaucratic élite consisting of déclassé intellectuals and ex-workers. Copies of Avrich's essay available free. Send s.a.e. to News from Nowhere, 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.

SCOTTISH LIBERTARIAN bi-monthly. SLF mag £1 for year's sub incl. post. No. 1 articles on elections & anarchism, subversion of records, Fight to Live, libertarian organisation & strategy etc. From Glasgow group. Also Pocketsedition, cartoon-based sit-comik 20p. p. f.

ever. (Also special defence groups like the Murrays', Marini's and so forth). They could be recognised as having particular knowledge on their area and be looked to to initiate action campaigns, etc at any appropriate moment. This seems to be especially necessary just now with the "welfare state" crumbling at the edges. Anarchists above all should seize such a psychologically good moment to put across their own alternatives of self-management within the community... and I think some degree of group specialisation would very much help us to get out of the general waffle and "into the action".

Maybe Terry or someone would give their views on this?

Impatient Reader

PS A reader's meeting is a good idea. So is another CBA meeting.

ANARCHY FOR KIDS

Dear Freedom

Ben Schumacher and others may be interested in the following people: New Seed Press, P.O. Box 3016, Stanford, CA 94305, USA, who publish children's books free from racial, class or sex-role stereotypes. I "found" them via Rising Free,* and a copy of "Fanshen the Magic Bear" (40p). The storyline, briefly, is that Laura - the king's rent collector - at Fanshen's inspiration, encourages the subjects of the kingdom to effect a peaceful revolution wherein king is deposed and a libertarian society is formed.

Seen both as a kid's book (writing, illustrations, characterisations etc) and as a political statement, the book is fine. Difficult to know what age, if any, it is aimed at, but whilst some of the sentence construction will be hard for younger readers, it would be suited - one way or another - for kids over a wide age range, 4 to 10 say.

Readers wishing to follow up the area of non-stereotyped children's literature should write to Children's Rights Workshop, 73 Balfour St, London SE 17, who have done a lot of work in this field. Other contacts can be got from them too.

Finally, re review of Ferlinghetti in the same issue (1 January). "Populist Manifesto" was featured in issue 1 of Z Revue (August '75) still available at 15p + post from 41 Norman St, Leicester.

Fraternally

Peter Cummings

* Rising Free, 155 Drummond St, London WC1.

Spain

*The writer was responsible for the English language edition of CNT-FAI our of Casa CNT-FAI, Barcelona May 1937-January 1938.

*The International Libertarian Labor Fund has already sent one thousand dollars to the CNT in Madrid, and is collecting additional funds to send them. Contributions should be sent to the Fund at P.O. Box 733, New York, N.Y. 10003, U.S.A.

CONTACT:

PRESS FUND

TOTAL to date £310.88

INTERNATIONAL

May 17 Murray Bookchin: Environment
and Anarchism.

GROUPS

MEETINGS

PRISONERS

PUBLICATIONS

ANARCHISM LANCASTRIUM No. 10
8p (post 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p) from 16 Kingsmill Ave.,
Whalley, Blackburn Lancs (or Freedom
Bookshop).

campaign for our liberation from the Boer tyranny'. Taken from 'War Communique No 1 - 9th February 1917'. Now for those of you who read last issue's story about the swallow and are waiting for the conclusion, the answers are: (1) Everyone who gets you out of the shirt is not necessarily your friend. (2) Everyone who gets you out of the shirt is not necessarily your friend. (3) And if you are warm and happy in a pile of shit - (shit-Lady Falkender) Believe passionately in the ideals of socialism. "I'm the Printer".

NAMIBIA FIGHTS FOR ITS FREEDOM FROM SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPATION - "Liberation forces last Wednesday, February 2nd, after penetrating behind the South African occupation forces in north-east Namibia, in the Caprivi strip, successfully ambushed a South African patrol. Surprise was complete. A total of 25 killed were counted. The SWAPO fighters suffered no losses." This latest attack confirms our ability to intensify and escalate the war until South Africa quits our country. It marks a reversal of the course of wounded and dispersed to bases safely.